

LEGISLATIVE BILL 704

Approved by the Governor March 14, 2022

Introduced by Williams, 36; Wayne, 13.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to public health and welfare; to amend sections 38-1414 and 38-1416, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change education requirements for funeral directing and embalming and apprentice licensure; to eliminate reporting requirements relating to caskets; to repeal the original sections; and to outright repeal section 71-609, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 38-1414, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

38-1414 (1) The department shall issue a single license to practice funeral directing and embalming to applicants who meet the requirements of this section. An applicant for a license as a funeral director and embalmer shall:

(a) Present satisfactory proof that the applicant has earned the equivalent of ~~forty~~ ~~sixty~~ semester hours of college credit in addition to a full course of instruction in an accredited school of mortuary science. Such hours shall include the equivalent of (i) six semester hours of English, (ii) ~~twelve~~ ~~six~~ semester hours of business accounting, (iii) ~~four~~ ~~eight~~ semester hours of chemistry, (iv) twelve semester hours of a biological science relating to the human body, and (v) six semester hours of psychology or counseling; and

(b) Present proof to the department that he or she has completed the following training:

(i) A full course of instruction in an accredited school of mortuary science;

(ii) A twelve-month apprenticeship under the supervision of a licensed funeral director and embalmer practicing in the State of Nebraska, which apprenticeship shall consist of arterially embalming twenty-five bodies and assisting with twenty-five funerals; and

(iii) Successful completion of the licensure examination approved by the board.

(2) Any person holding a valid license as an embalmer on January 1, 1994, may continue to provide services as an embalmer after such date. Upon expiration of such valid license, the person may apply for renewal thereof, and the department shall renew such license to practice embalming.

(3) Any person holding a valid license as a funeral director on January 1, 1994, may continue to provide services as a funeral director after such date. Upon expiration of such valid license, the person may apply for renewal thereof, and the department shall renew such license to practice funeral directing.

Sec. 2. Section 38-1416, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

38-1416 (1) Before beginning an apprenticeship, an applicant shall apply for an apprentice license. The applicant shall show that he or she has completed ~~twenty~~ ~~thirty-nine~~ of the ~~forty~~ ~~sixty~~ hours required in subdivision (1)(a) of section 38-1414. The applicant may complete the twelve-month apprenticeship in either a split apprenticeship or a full apprenticeship as provided in this section.

(2) A split apprenticeship shall be completed in the following manner:

(a) Application for an apprentice license to complete a six-month apprenticeship prior to attending an accredited school of mortuary science, which license shall be valid for six months from the date of issuance and shall not be extended by the board. The apprenticeship shall be completed over a continuous six-month period;

(b) Successful completion of a full course of study in an accredited school of mortuary science;

(c) Successful passage of the national standardized examination; and

(d) Application for an apprentice license to complete the final six-month apprenticeship, which license shall be valid for six months from the date of issuance and shall not be extended by the board. The apprenticeship shall be completed over a continuous six-month period.

(3) A full apprenticeship shall be completed in the following manner:

(a) Successful completion of a full course of study in an accredited school of mortuary science;

(b) Successful passage of the national standardized examination; and

(c) Application for an apprentice license to complete a twelve-month apprenticeship. This license shall be valid for twelve months from the date of issuance and shall not be extended by the board. The apprenticeship shall be completed over a continuous twelve-month period.

(4) An individual registered as an apprentice on December 1, 2008, shall be deemed to be licensed as an apprentice for the term of the apprenticeship on such date.

Sec. 3. Original sections 38-1414 and 38-1416, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

Sec. 4. The following section is outright repealed: Section 71-609, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska.